



# Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*



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[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)

January 2024



## Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Streetsville United Church

In Heritage Hall

274 Queen Street South

Set Up at 6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Stephen Rice

Topic: Honeybees, Native Bees &  
Urban Gardens

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<sup>1</sup> Picture from *Birds & Blooms*, Carol Estes photographer

## Co-Presidents' Message

Happy New Year! It's the time of the year when we reflect on the events of the previous year and make plans. As your new Co-Presidents, we are looking forward to trying new things and continuing with traditions, such as our photo contests and flower shows.

In 2022 - 2023, Streetsville Horticultural Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the commemorative arbour at the Leslie Log House was built, and we had a successful plant sale. As horticulturists, we often think about what grew well in our gardens and how to improve them. We encourage you to add more native pollinators to your garden, such as the butterfly milkweed.

Our December meeting was a huge success thanks to the generous donations from members Steve, Ursula, Sue, Janice, and TERRA Greenhouses. The Board of Directors generously provided the beverages and contactless snacks. As the slideshow highlighted the events of the year, music filled the room, and members enjoyed socializing with each other. We planted amaryllis bulbs and we collected both money and food for our local food bank!

Communities in Bloom has decided that **orange** is the colour of the year for 2024. Orange was chosen to honour our Indigenous Communities and the slogan is "Plants Love You".

Wishing you a year ahead filled with sunny days to help your garden grow and lift your spirits.

Maureen Dodd & Shelley Dodd







## Membership Desk

Yahoo!! We surpassed the 100 members mark when Gary, Carol, and Heather T., renewed their membership in December. Our membership now stands at 102.

Our December holiday meeting had 57 members attend. Members were treated to music while they perused the crafts for sale created by Ursula, Bev, Sue, Steve, Mary Ann, Faulene, and Shelley.

During the break 30 members participated in the Holiday Trivia Challenge where Janice scored a perfect 12/12! 66% of the members scored over 75 %, with the two most challenging questions being that bees visit 4.4 million flowers to make 1 kg of honey and monarch caterpillars are white, black, and yellow.



SHS memberships make great gifts for family members, friends, or neighbours. If you didn't sign up on your membership form for a volunteer activity, please visit Faulene at the membership desk to check off what you are interested in helping with.

## Celebrations



January's birth flowers are the carnation and the snowdrop. Wishing Adele and Monika, who are celebrating a birthday this month, a happy and healthy 2024! Belated birthday wishes to Rena, Maureen S. & Mary G. Congratulations to Martha who has wedding anniversary this month!



Thank you to the members who have shared their celebration dates on their membership forms so we could recognize your special day. If yours was left blank in error, please email Shelley and she will add it to her list.

## Amaryllis Bulb Workshop

Monica's workshop presentation was very informative, and members enjoyed learning how to plant the bulb, care for, and regrow an amaryllis. Members are now anxiously awaiting their amaryllis blooms! Our thanks to Monica for her email of a detailed five-page handout all to all members!

Here is a summary of the major planting & care tips for your amaryllis:

- prefer to be pot-bound
- bulb should be 1/3 to 1/2 above the soil
- water with lukewarm water when first planted then stop watering until growth is seen
- fertilize monthly
- don't let soil dry out or water too much
- stake plant to avoid tipping over
- cut off the dead flower stalk, but not the leaves
- can be put outside from about May to September, when overnight temperatures are above 10 ° C



## Refreshment Table



Thanks to our Board of Directors for supplying the refreshments for our December Workshop. Thank you also to Marg Rowan and Jill Davies for their fantastic help in setting up and cleaning up, and to Jon Eldridge, for helping with the clean up by carrying all the boxes, etc. from the church.

Periodically, a member will drop off some coffee cups, napkins, etc. thank you, these donations are very much appreciated. A reminder for those who signed up to bring refreshments to the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting: Lisa C., Judi K., Eleanor M., Cathy C., & Judy C.

Martha Witney, Refreshment Table Chair

## Flower Show Team

In early November Alex and Anita King, Steve Fenech, Marcia Spear, Lisa Yu, Liz Menard , Shelley Dodd and Sue Harshman gathered to discuss the future of the SHS Flower Shows. Regrets Janice Ward and Monica Schouten. We decided that the best way to ensure no one missed 4 meetings/speakers was to act as a team and each month would have 2 people look after the show. The months are May, June, September and October. Anyone is welcome to join "the team". It is a great way to learn from the judges how they judge flower shows.

Also, we have the latest flower show books available for sale at \$10 at the next meeting so you can see the judging criteria. Our team will meet in February so please let me know if you would like to come to the meeting.

Sue Harshman

## September 2022 to August 2023 SHS Photo Competition



Winner of Class 2:  
"Beauty of Winter" Grace Nelham

Judge's remarks: Lovely spot the photographer has found here. Birds, branches front to back are sharply defined. Nice curve leading birds and the viewer "around the corner." Nice dark water matches the beauty of winter and this photo could not be improved in my opinion.



## Eden Food for Change



The Streetsville Horticultural Society was pleased to donate to Eden Food for Change. On December 14<sup>th</sup> a cheque in the amount of \$373.05, consisting of monies collected from the Refreshment Table \$124.05, and Draw Table \$249.00 and a donation of approximately 90 lbs of non-perishable food items was delivered to Eden Food for Change.

Thank-you to our members, who donated at our Annual Holiday Workshop, either by dropping off food, buying draw tickets or donating to the refreshment table.

## January Speaker – Honeybees, Native Bees & Urban Gardens



Stephen Rice was born in 1953. Raised in Streetsville, and, apart from some absences due to travel, resided there until 2021. Educated at University of Toronto, McMaster University and York University, in psychology and philosophy (still working on the PhD - all but dissertation, as the saying goes).

Having loved being on my grandparents' farm growing up, I was drawn to farm life when I began beekeeping 32 years ago, and worked on a farm in Cheltenham. In 2011 my wife and I bought 50 acres in Grey county (a little south of Owen Sound), where I currently have 25 honeybee colonies, stands of trees and fields of flowers, and a lot of wild bees.

I've done some urban beekeeping in Streetsville, and in 2015 I and some other enthusiasts founded the Mississauga Beekeeping Association. You may find more about us on Instagram under that name, or on Facebook (as Big City Bees). My work in this area consists of connecting beekeepers with information from the Ontario Beekeepers Association, or with directives from the provinces Apiary program, and in helping novice beekeepers learn the ropes. I enjoy doing environmental advocacy and am sometimes called in to advise local companies, or for example, the city of Mississauga in its recent efforts to address urban food production.

As a beekeeper I operate Steve's Bees Apiaries, in which I specialize in producing raw honey and pollen. I sell this at local markets (eg, the Streetsville Summer Market, and the Bread and Honey Festival).